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**Human Rights Council**

On 18 June 2007, the Human Rights Council at its 5<sup>th</sup> session adopted a resolution outlining future work of the Council including with respect to the new Universal Periodic Review procedure (UPR), the work and review of special procedure mandate holders, the establishment of a new Human Rights Council Advisory Committee composed of 18 members. The UN Working Groups, such as the Working Group on Minorities were disbanded.

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**Independent Expert on Minority Issues**

The Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Ms. Gay McDougall, was elected Chairperson of the annual meeting of the special procedures and bureau of the special procedures in June 2007. As Chairperson she made a presentation to the Human Rights Council on 22 June on the importance of these mechanisms.

**Advocacy and media training for the 2007 Fellows**

A pilot advocacy and media training was organized and delivered by Mr. Iain Guest for participants in the English speaking Minority and Indigenous Fellowship programmes. The week of training was intensive and empowering.

Mr. Iain Guest is a former journalist and UN spokesperson and presently lectures at Georgetown University. He is also Director of the Advocacy Project which supports advocates for peace, human rights and social justice.

The web site of this organization is: [advocacynet.org](http://advocacynet.org)

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**Inter-agency meeting**

Following the February 2007 meeting, which was reported in the March issue of this newsletter, another consultation of the Inter-Agency Group on Minorities took place on 20th June in Geneva this time with the Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

Seven mandate holders attended the meeting including Gay McDougall, Independent Expert on minorities issues; Asma Jahangir Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; Doudou Diène, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; Walter Kälin, Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons; Yakin Ertük,

Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; Miloon Kothari Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, and Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. A draft information note entitled 10 Questions and Answers on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities served as a basis for the discussions and is currently under consideration by the participants of the Inter-Agency Group for its finalization.

Maria Francisca Ize-Charrin, Director of the OHCHR Operations, Programmes and Research Division opened the Consultation and participated in the discussions. Lin Lean Lim, Senior ILO Adviser, acted as a facilitator/moderator for the meeting. During the meeting participants acknowledged that improved protection for minorities is necessary and that the existing Special Procedures human rights mechanisms provided protection but needed to be used more effectively. The role of the Special Procedures in this area has been particularly noted and the need to continue cooperating has been highlighted. The next meeting of the group is scheduled to take place in September.

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### Durban Review Preparatory Process

The Durban Review Preparatory Process chose a Bureau designate with Chairperson in June.

The Bureau designate decided that the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Process would be held from 27 to 31 August 2007.

They decided to meet on an informal basis between June and August to consider

preparations for the first session which would deal with organizational issues, such as participation of civil society in the preparatory processes and review conference.

For further information, see [http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep\\_committee\\_durban/index.htm](http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/racism/groups/prep_committee_durban/index.htm)

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**Treaty Bodies** and country reviews:  
**The Committee on the Rights of the Child** held its 45th session from 21 May to 8 June 2007. The Committee considered the following reports:

**CRC:** *Kazakhstan; Maldives; Slovakia; Uruguay*  
The concluding observations on Kazakhstan, Maldives do not contain a reference to the situation of children belonging to minorities.

A number of references to issues concerning children belonging to minorities are contained in the concluding observations on Slovakia and to Afro-descendants in the concluding observations on Uruguay.

**CRC OPSC:** *Bangladesh; Guatemala; Sudan; Ukraine*  
A reference is made to minority and indigenous or ethnic group in the concluding observations on Bangladesh, Guatemala and Sudan.

**CRC OPAC:** *Guatemala; Monaco; Norway; Sweden*  
The concluding observations do not contain a reference to children belonging to minorities.

All the documents are available on the Committee's webpage at: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/crcs45.htm>

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